

[Please add the following new claim 14:]

Claim ¹²14 (New) The computer program product of claim ¹2, wherein:

the classification of the attempted security breach is accomplished by a controller unit which is physically distinct from a firewall unit.

[Please add the following new claim 15.]

Claim ¹²15 (New) The computer program product of claim ¹²14, wherein:

the firewall unit is controlled through a serial datalink from the controller unit.

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed November 17, 2000, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire February 17, 2001. A one-month extension to expire March 19, 2001 (March 17 and March 18 being a Saturday and Sunday, respectively) is requested in a petition filed herewith.

The amendments to the claims made herein are shown in the attached "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the clear statement of reasons for the rejection of claims 2 through 8. Also, the statement of reasons for allowance of claim 1 is most helpful, and Applicant thanks the Examiner for that, as well.

Unfortunately, upon closer examination Applicant realizes that the scope of the proposed claim 1 is identical to that of claim 1 in the already issued U.S. Patent No. 6,119,236. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been deleted in this application.

Regarding the remainder of the claims, Applicant's purpose in filing this present application has been to secure the additional protection afforded by "computer program product" type claims. Applicant believes that such claims are now well accepted, and offer additional protection in that the claimed computer program product need not be actually running in a computer for an infringing manufacturer or seller of the product to be in violation of the patent.

Therefore, in order to expedite the issuance of this application, and to avoid further controversy, Applicant has herein amended Claim 2 to correspond to the already issued

Claim 12 of the above referenced issued patent. The present claim 2 differs from that already issued claim in that the present Claim 2 is directed to a "computer program product." Similarly, the new claims 9 through 15 correspond to the already issued claims 13 through 19, but are directed to a "computer program product." The remaining claims 2, 3 and 5 through 8, as amended, should also now be allowable as further restrictions on the allowable claim 2.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 and 4 have been deleted herein, and new claims 9 through 15 have been added by amendment herein. Claims 2, 3 and 5 through 15, inclusive, remain in the case. Because the only remaining independent claim is a "computer program product" that corresponds to an already issued claim, Applicant believes that it, and all of the claims depending therefrom, should now be in condition for allowance.

It is now thought that this application is in complete condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Applicant urges the Examiner to call Applicant's undersigned counsel should there be any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on March 19, 2001.

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3/19/01
Date Signed



Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

Please amend claim 2 to read as follows:

Claim 2 (amended) A computer program product which includes codes on a computer readable medium [wherein codes are being executed by a computer system], comprising:

[a detect code operation wherein known improper code is detected; and
a detect patterns operational routine wherein a pattern of activity is detected over time]

code for monitoring communications between a local area network and a wide area network;

code for determining, over time, if the communications between the local area network and the wide area network contain patterns of activity indicative of an attempted security breach; and

code for generally simultaneously controlling a firewall to selectively block communications between the local area network and the wide area network depending upon a classification of the attempted security breach.

Please amend claim 3 to read as follows:

Claim 3 (Amended) The computer program product of claim 2, and further including:

code for a weighting operation wherein a weight is assigned to a detected security breach.

Please delete claim 4.

Please amend claim 5 to read as follows:

Claim 5 (Amended) [A] The computer program product [which includes codes on a computer readable medium] of claim 2 [wherein codes are being executed by a computer system], and further including [comprising]:

at least one detect operation performed by the codes on the computer readable medium wherein a computer security breach is detected; and

a weighting operation performed by the codes on the computer readable medium wherein a weight is assigned according to the importance of the security breach.

Please amend claim 6 to read as follows:

Claim 6 (Amended) The computer program product of claim [5] 2, and further including:

a react operation wherein said firewall is reprogrammed in real time to react to the security breach.

Please amend claim 7 to read as follows:

Claim 7 (Amended) [A] The computer program product [which includes codes on a computer readable medium wherein codes are being executed by a computer system] of claim 2, and further including [comprising]:

at least one detect operation performed by the codes on the computer readable medium wherein a computer security breach is detected; and

a react operation performed by the codes on the computer readable medium wherein said firewall is reprogrammed in real time to react to the security breach.

Please amend claim 8 to read as follows:

Claim 8 (Amended) The computer program product of claim [7] 2, wherein:

said react operation reprograms said firewall according to an assigned weight, the assigned weight being a function the type of security breach detected.